Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota continues to have one of the highest percentages of working mothers in the nation who rely on quality care for their children on a daily basis; and,

Whereas, Over 34,300 children are currently served in 910 registered family day care homes, 92 licensed group family day care homes, 147 licensed child care centers, and 153 licensed before and after school programs; and,

Whereas, At 47 percent, South Dakota has twice the national average of children under age 6 in paid child care; and,

Whereas, Licensed and registered child care creates over 4,400 jobs in South Dakota making child care fundamental to a strong South Dakota economy; and,

Whereas, Quality child care benefits all communities by enabling businesses to hire workers, decreasing absenteeism, and increasing productivity. The availability of quality child care is not only important for maintaining a strong workforce; it is vital for the healthy growth and development of children; and,

Whereas, The child care industry supports working families, generates revenue, creates jobs and leverages funds for the good of the economy:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2005, as

PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

in South Dakota, and I call on all parents and child care professionals to continue to sustain the high level of care afforded to the children of this state.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixteenth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State